

Together WE ARE Building

Our Red Sea Community




January 13, 2010
Vol. 2, No. 1

BREAKING NEWS

We're baaacckk – or almost.

For those who went away – hopefully your experience was a positively memorable one.

For those who stayed nearby – hopefully you, too, shared in lots of good times.

The **BREAKING  NEWS** at this time deals with Our **Red Sea Community** Newsletter. If you've lived at KAUST or been involved in any aspect of KAUST, you probably have experienced change and confusion. NOW, it's my turn:

★ **Distribution days have changed to the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month** (because I wanted to include the Tamimi Market ads and thought they came out on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, but they actually come out every 2nd Wednesday, i.e., every other week); and,

★ **You will now get a mini-Monday edition of ORSC on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month.**

That means **ORSC** just became a weekly community newsletter. Inside is a distribution calendar through March.

You will also see a few format changes from last year's "model."

Obviously, the integrity of reporting and the items brought to your attention will remain steadfast and honest, to the very best of our ability.

On the following pages you will find:

- Neighbor news
- News to know
- Travel ideas
- Food/Recipes/Health
- Potpourri, including ads



If you want a copy of your own, drop me a note at

abgwsa1@yahoo.com;

If you want me to **stop** sending you the newsletter, drop me a different note.

REMEMBER: **kcomm.info** = your wider community resource; and **now** there's (wiki) community calendar to which you can directly send your events:

kcommcalendar@gmail.com

If you have an idea for a topic, or if you have information to share, **PLEASE** send me your contact or the information **ASAP**.

And, if you would like to help gather information or do some reporting, that too would be **VERY VERY** welcomed. **In fact**, why not put something original together (I'll help you with the English, if needed) about a trip, an experience, a place you want to share with others. **Send it on!**

Matthew F. has been here for 10 months. His home before KAUST – Sydney, Australia.

Why did he come to KAUST? Matthew's wife, Amy, was offered a position in Procurement. She arrived last January and, without a job himself, Matthew followed two months later.

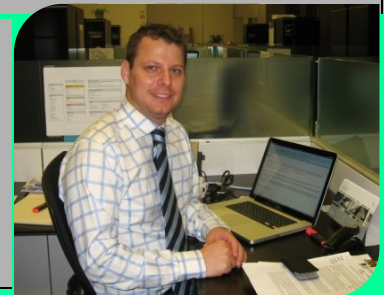
What's he been doing lately? As of a few short months ago, Matthew has been working as a data management analyst. He knows all about analysis: before KAUST, Matthew was a "real-life CSI" – a forensic scientist gathering and analyzing crime-scene evidence.

What was his first impression of the Kingdom? The weather and climate are very much like his part of Australia.

And what about Jeddah? "Australia is an oasis of tranquility compared to the chaos on the roads [in Jeddah]."

For those of you who already know this neighbor, you are probably aware that he and Amy have 2 cats, Caesar and Cleo, and that he is a board game player and collector. But, did you know that every day, while still living in Sydney, Matthew walked across the Harbour Bridge to go to and from work? That's 3770 ft (1149 mtrs) each way (more than 2/3 mile in each direction). Great stamina, Matthew! BUT,

Have you checked out OUR bridges yet?



Mashhoor B. is crazy about puzzles, video games and whatever computer

challenges you can give him. Having worked on the KAUST Inauguration database team for 4 months, he switched to Economic Development in September after a chance meeting with one of its principal managers.

With his bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering completed, Mashhoor is now deciding when he will take advantage of a scholarship to get his master's degree.

Mashhoor is a native of Jeddah, has 2 older sisters and a younger brother who just started his university study.

When not working on or creating/solving a computer "puzzle," Mashhoor enjoys relaxing on the Durratlaros beach in north Jeddah (unless he's in the water on a jet ski, of course), playing soccer with friends, or catching up on episodes of the TV show "Lost."

Want to know what is where in Jeddah?; the best sheeshah parlors?; the freshest fish or most scenic view?

Mashhoor is certainly one to ask.



This is your neighbor **Bernadette M.** What a **total** coincidence: she is from Australia, too, but from the city of Melbourne.

Bernadette is a veteran resident of the Kingdom. Way back in 1997 she moved to Riyadh and worked initially as a Sr. Executive Assistant at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center, then for the Chief Executive Director before coming to KAUST in May 2009.

Why did she come? "I wanted to do something other than work in a hospital environment." She spotted a notice for KAUST on a website, and the rest, as they say, is history.

What does she miss? Bernadette's grown son and daughter still reside in Australia, and so does her 6-month old granddaughter (see pictures behind Bernadette). Though occasionally spending time at another homesite in Las Vegas, Nevada, Bernadette's heart and home remain with her children in Australia. **Oh**, she admits to also missing chocolate cherry ripen – a sweet specialty she enjoyed at home.

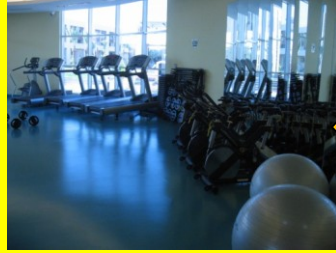
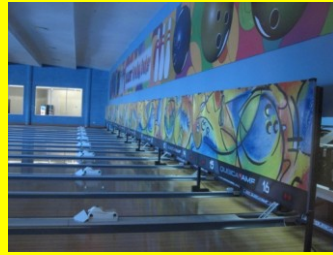
Despite the extraordinary, first-hand experience of the horrible Riyadh event of a few years ago, Bernadette still enjoys living here in the Kingdom.

News to Know

- The **Harbor Sports Club/Fitness Center** is eager to help you get / stay in shape. Morning and afternoon (evening) sessions are up and running, and equipment (treadmills, elliptical, rowers, free weights and weight-adjusted pull-downs, pull-ups, and bend-arounds) is just sitting and waiting for your use.

Bowling Lanes are big and beautiful;

the café serves a variety of yummy fare.



The Men's Gym is Robust
with equipment + views!



The Women's Gym facilities (more than pictured) are great for individual workouts as well as for classes!

- An honest-to-goodness **FISH STORY**: About 3 weeks ago Ahmed Shaker (of the Recreation Department) went out to survey the area to find good fishing and diving locations. Together with a friend, he found a really FINE spot about 6 nautical miles northwest of KAUST. How does he know it was a good spot?



According to Ahmed, it's the first swordfish catch in this Red Sea area's (KAUST's) waters and a **BIG** surprise for local fishermen!

WANT ONE ?



- There's another kind of fish story in the section **Food/Recipes/Health**. **Don't miss it!**

More NEWS to KNOW

☛ The Winter Enrichment Program

Dates: January 16 – February 10, 2010.

Come to the opening International Market Bazaar, with complimentary dinner on Friday 15 January 2010 from 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Who: The entire KAUST Community.

The program will conclude with a gala community fair celebration.

There are way too many sessions and offerings in a variety of subject areas for me to even try to provide that information here. All I can recommend is that you look into what's being offered. Several sessions are open to "us ordinary folk" (i.e., non-students, non-scientists – but interested in **continuing** our education): <http://www.kaust.edu.sa/academics/wep/index.html>

According to the announcement, **WEP** is designed to offer something for nearly everyone's area of interest. You can even learn a bit of Arabic by choosing week 1 of WEP, daily from 11:30-12:30, or week 2 from 2pm – 3pm. Keep watch on the schedule to see if there is an offering during the 3rd and/or 4th week as well.

Specially priced dinner buffets are offered in the Diner **every** night during WEP.

☛ **Cricket Anyone?** There is a group of IT and Facilities cricket players that meets every day during the workweek from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, and on Thursdays from 8 am -10:30 am. They would be very happy to increase their numbers. Their "playground" is the grassy field between the northern mosque and the canal. **GO ON** – you can join them. **They want you to!**

☛ **King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC)** – well, **The Radisson Hotel**, anyhow, is **OPEN** for business, **and so is their restaurant** (giving us all another enjoyable eating venue). A short distance north and you're there. I'll have personal commentary and photos for the next issue.

☛ Community Library Events for the young ones:

Singing and Story Time for 3 year olds – 2nd graders. **1st & 3rd Thursday** of every month at **11:00 a.m.** Parents need to stay at the library.

Rhyme Time for newborns -3 year olds. Every **Friday morning at 11:00** - Parents need to be with child.

Please call library to reserve a space: 878-6648

TRAVEL IDEAS



There are so many great pictures and the narrative is quite fascinating that I'm giving you the website URL so you can get the "whole picture."

<http://www.saudicaves.com/jirsan/index.htm>

FOOD/RECIPES/HEALTH

Now, about that **OTHER fish story** I mentioned earlier:

Just outside the “construction gate” to KAUST (the one where the Security Office is located) and towards the town of Thuwal is a fish lover’s heaven / haven! You definitely can’t miss it – either the overflow of cars or the beautiful blue sign and distinctive archway will catch your eye.



Mr. Mustafa
Owner

Mr. Zebian
Manager

2 separate rooms to reserve
for conferences



This back wall has a huge water feature and a canal leads up to it.



We chose our fish (*hareed*) from the “fish room” above.

This platter of 2 kinds of rice was just for the 2 of us. We had to bring most of it home.



This information and write-up was totally my idea.

I received no benefits nor “treats”.

Because I had enjoyed a “goodbye colleague” lunch there, I just had to return with my spouse. I’m sorry I can’t show you the fish as it was served, we went at it so fast, there was no time for a photo. I do have a picture of the “remains” though; it’s for family back home.

Abazeer Organic Market: Jeddah: Souk Al Mussadia, No.3 Madinah Road

Tel :02 6612285 - 6676157- 6635831; ksh@abazeer.com If you are interested in organic food items, why not visit or contact Abazeer; or write to KAUST Green Group: kaust-green-group@googlegroups.com; or rachelweitzmanyeh@gmail.com to find out more about Abazeer and their products.



WHY NOT join the KGG for dinner on **Saturday, January 16**, at **6PM** at the **Diner** and get all of your healthy food questions answered? They’ll be near the windows at a reserved table. **MAKE NEW FRIENDS, TOO**

POTPOURRI

ORSC Distribution Dates

Mondays Wednesdays

Jan 18 27

Feb 01 10

15 24

Mch 01 10

15 24

Spring Break starts

MANSOOJAT FOUNDATION WORKSHOP; WWW.MANSOOJAT.ORG

*WOMENS WELFARE CENTER, JEDDAH; A
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION*

The Mansoojat Foundation workshop was established in mid 2000 at the Women's Welfare Centre. It was a JISH (Jeddah Institute of Speech and Hearing) initiative to help women who had hearing and speech impairments find employment.

The Mansoojat workshop is open **3 times** a week from **4pm to 7pm** and runs under the supervision and coordination of Salma Alireza who visits weekly or fortnightly. The main skill the women acquire is embroidery; they learn the exact stitching and designs of the various tribes of Saudi Arabia.

"If I had known about this non-profit organization and there beautiful handicrafts that they sell, it would have been a one-stop shopping place for me," wrote a KAUST resident. She also said they have jewelry, bags, gift sets, towels, sandals, clothing, baskets, and more. It's located between Tahliah Street and the Red Sea Mall.

Clothing and Toy Exchange –

ARE YOU INTERESTED in this?

The Parents Group certainly should be! Just think of all the money you could be saving by bringing in clothes and toys that are "new for you" and your young one. If you are curious about this possibility, send me a note and I'll put you in contact with the originator of this suggestion.

Dragon Boat Racing:

Are you interested in group sports and getting some fun, intensive exercise out on the water? We would like to start a 'Self-Directed Group' and acquire boats, equipment and coaching so that community members can participate in this incredible sport.

Did you know that Dragon Boating:

- Is the second most popular sport worldwide next to soccer
- That 50 million people participate annually in dragon boat races worldwide
- In the Middle East, the UAE/Dubai has become an active race location with 57 competing teams
- In 2009 12 university teams competed in races in Dubai.

If you are interested in participating and assisting in creating this Self-Directed Group, please email Mark Karstad:

mark.karstad@kaust.edu.sa

How long is China's Great Wall? Is it **almost 1000 miles?** **Almost 4000 miles?**
Almost 2000 miles? Or **none of these choices?**



And Finally:

Tamimi Market Ads good only for **ONE MORE WEEK** (until 19th of January) at which time you will have a new newsletter and new ads:



Did you let Tamimi know about your wish to have an ATM machine in their store yet? If not, be sure to tell them. It will be a win-win situation.

Almost **4,000**
miles